

Message Text

SECRET

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10

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-09 NSAE-00 T-03 OMB-01 EB-11 EUR-25 RS-01 /097 W
----- 058034

R 150500 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T KUWAIT 0803

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS KU
SUBJ: MILITARY SALES: MEETING WITH KMT LEADER

REF: KUWAIT 667

1. EMBOFFS MET MARCH 14 WITH LEADER KUWAIT MILITARY TEAM (KMT) LT. COL. BADR AL- SAYEGH. THIS WAS FIRST MEETING WITH SAYEHG SINCE HIS RETURN FROM EUROPE AND HE REITERATED SATISFACTION KMT WITH US PORTION OF TRIP. SAYEGH DID NOT DIVULGE ANY INFO RE UK AND FRENCH PORTIONS.
2. BASED ON PRESENTATIONS IN GERMANY GOK NOW SERIOUSLY INTERESTED PURCHASING VIA FMS TRANSACTION 30-50 EACH 2.5 AND 5 TON MILITARY TRANSPORT VEHICLES. FORMAL REQUEST FOR INFO ON ITS WAY TO EMBASSY AND WE SHALL PROVIDE SPECIFIC DETAILS ASAP.
3. RE GENERAL AIR DEFENSE PACKAGE SAYEGH INDICATED GOK NOT RPT NOT INTERESTED IN HAVING PRIVATE COMPANY MANGE NEW AD SYSTEM. FYI LOCKHEED HAS OFFERED PROVIDE SUCH SERVICE AS IT CURRENTLY DOING IN SAUDI ARABIA. END FYI. ACCORDING SAYEGH GOK WANTS MILITARY RPT MILITARY EXPERTS TO BE HERE IN RELATIONSHIP SIMILAR TO UK MILITARY LIAISON TEAM (MLT) WHICH COMPRISED UK OFFICERS SECONDED TO GOK ARMY AND SAYEGH PRESUMABLY
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ANTICIPATES FOREIGN MILITARY PERSONNEL WOULD BE SECONDED
PRIMARILY TO GOK AIR FORCE.

3. SAYEGH HINTED FAIRLY STRONGLY THAT US AIR DEFENSE
EQUIPMENT WOULD BE ORDERED AND THEREFORE US MILITARY
PERSONNEL WOULD BE REQUESTED. HE WAS MORE CIRCUMSPECT
REGARDING AIRCRAFT. IN ANSWER TO QUERY BY EMBOFF HE
SAID FOREIGN MILITARY ADVISORS WOULD MANAGE AIR DEFENSE
SYSTEM BUT IN THIS CONTEXT AD SYSTEM DOES NOT RPT NOT
INCLUDE INTERCEPTOR AIRCRAFT. SAYEGH SAID GOK PROBABLY
WILL REACH DECISION ON SUPPLIERS IN WEEK OR SO AT WHICH
TIME MORE FORMAL REQUESTS MAY BE MADE.

4. ON SAME DAY EMBOFFS MET WITH SAYEGH I MET WITH MOD
SHAIKH SAAD WHO INDICATED INTEREST IN HAVING US COMPANY OR
COMPANIES DESIGN NEW MILITARY AIRFIELD AND AIR DEFENSE
BASE TO BE LOCATED IN SOUTHERN KUWAIT. HE WILL RAISE
THIS MATTER AT KUWAIT DEFENSE COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 15
AND IF HIS VIEW PREVAILS FORMAL WRITTEN REQUEST WILL BE
SENT. EMBASSY WILL SEND FOLLOW-UP REPORT AS SOON AS
SAAD LETTER IS RECEIVED.

5. COMMENT: AS SUGGESTED REFTEL GOK APPARENTLY WORKING
HARD IN FOLLOW-UP ON KMT RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON
PRESENTATIONS IN EUROPE. WE EXPECT HAVE MORE
PRECISE INFO TO REPORT ON TRUCKS, AND AIRFIELD IN FEW
DAYS AND ON AIR DEFENSE AND POSSIBLY AIRCRAFT IN WEEK OR
SO.

STOLTZFUS

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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